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LAFAYETTE TO BEGIN STORMWATER USER FEE BILLING JULY 1

Convenient payment options available to customers

LAFAYETTE—The City of Lafayette will begin assessing stormwater user fees July 1 in advance of six months of stormwater service from July 1 through December 31.

The user fee will fund a \$15,000,000, multi-year capital program that includes required operations and maintenance of the city's stormwater conveyance system and nine long-anticipated capital improvement projects to address water quality and drainage. The stormwater user fee, which was established by the Lafayette Common Council Oct. 5, 2009, and amended May 3, 2010, will provide a dedicated revenue source for the city's stormwater program and services.

"This user fee is a big win for the city of Lafayette and the environment," Mayor Tony Roswarski said. "The user fee will generate revenue that's essential as we work towards improved water quality in the Wabash River and other local streams, as well as reduced flooding in our community."

When rain or snow falls in Lafayette, the precipitation runs off impervious surfaces such as roofs, driveways, streets and parking lots into the stormwater drainage system. The stormwater, which may be polluted with chemicals, litter, and sediment, flows from the storm sewer directly into local streams and rivers. With little or no treatment, polluted stormwater creates unhealthy conditions for human and aquatic life.

Stormwater entering and exiting the city's storm sewers is regulated by the federal Clean Water Act and Indiana's General Stormwater Permit Rule (Rule 13). In 2008, Lafayette's joint National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit as a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) was renewed by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

User fee applies to residential and non-residential property owners

Stormwater runoff from developed parcels—residential and non-residential—enters the city's storm sewers and or ditches, so all property owners, tax exempt or not, make use of the infrastructure and will be assessed a monthly stormwater user fee. The Common Council has adopted the following user fee structure:

- **Residential User Fee:** Developed residential property owners will be assessed a flat \$4 monthly user fee based on the average impervious surface of a residential parcel, or an Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU). One ERU equals 3,200 square feet. In January 2011, the fee will increase to \$5 monthly.

(more)

- Non-Residential Users: For developed non-residential property owners, the city will calculate user fees based on actual measured impervious surface for a parcel. The minimum bill will be one ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit of 3200 square feet) or \$4 monthly. In January 2011, the minimum fee will increase to \$5 monthly.

An alternate rate class also has been established for non-residential users that have a NPDES Permit and discharge stormwater directly to a watercourse inside or outside the city's corporate boundaries. The city is working closely with alternate rate class applicants to ensure that they meet qualifications for this rate class.

City to offer convenient billing and payment options

Property owners will receive their first stormwater user fee statements in July 2010.

In an effort to conserve resources and simplify the payment process, residential customers that have water/sewer service will be billed monthly for the stormwater user fee on their existing water utility statement.

Residential property owners without water service and non-residential property owners will be billed semi-annually—or twice per year—on a separate stormwater user fee statement. When paying the stormwater user fee, these customers will have a choice of two payment options:

- Single payment: Customers can submit a lump sum payment for the full six months of stormwater service.
- Multiple payments: The stormwater bill may be divided into six monthly installments using included payment coupons.

The stormwater user fee will fund a citywide multi-year stormwater capital improvement program estimated at \$15,000,000. The revenue generated will fund individual and shared costs of the city's MS4 Permit, annual operations and maintenance of more than 200 miles of stormwater conveyance system and nine stormwater capital improvement projects:

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| • Valley Street Drainage Improvements | • Durkees Run East Improvements |
| • Elliot Ditch Stream Bank Restoration | • Vinton Woods Detention Pond Rehabilitation Project |
| • South 30 th Street Drainage Improvements | • Orchard Heights Sanitary/Stormwater Improvements Project |
| • Rain Gardens and Rain Barrel Program | • Storm Sewer Outfall Repairs |
| • Armstrong Park Regional Detention Basin Retrofit | |

More information on the stormwater user fee and capital program is available at www.lafayette.in.gov/stormwater.

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